

<b>Name of Library</b>	Nashville Public Library
<b>Address of Main Library</b>	Nashville Public Library 615 Church Street Nashville, Tennessee 37219
<b>Management</b>	Donna Nicely Director Nashville Public Library



**Court Yard - Main Library  
Nashville Public Library**

The Nashville Public Library System consists of 20 branch libraries, the downtown Main Library, Metropolitan Government Archives, Special Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Talking Library, a radio reading service for the print disabled. Special features include; a collection of more than 1.5 million circulating items and access to other libraries' collections through InterLibrary Loan and the virtual library catalog Athena; more than 600 public use computers; several special collections, including business, local history, the Civil Rights Collection, the Nashville Banner archives, an extensive image collection and periodicals indexes; reference assistance by e-mail, fax and telephone, and on-going classes and programs for all ages.

More than 250,000 Davidson County residents now have library cards and the library system's staff of 351 full-time and part-time workers keeps the libraries open for more than 1,060 hours each week. The Nashville Public Library's operating budget was more than \$19million during the 2003-04 budget year. Circulation has increased by nearly 60% throughout the library system in the past four years since major renovations occurred; the library eclipsed its four million mark in checkouts.

Since opening of the new Main Library in 2001, which marked the completion of the building program, the library system has set new records for activity each subsequent year. The library system averages more than 10,000 visits and close to 13,000 checkouts per day.

In fiscal year 1999-2000, a year in which new branch libraries began opening as part of a \$155 million library building program, circulation was right at 2.5 million. As of the end of FY 2004, circulation has increased by nearly 60% throughout the library system in the past four years.

By the early 1990's, Nashville's downtown public library was badly in need of updating, as it was housed in a drab, modernist structure that had seen better days, but more importantly no longer had the space needed for the Library's collections and programs. Margaret Ann Robinson, the chairman of the Nashville Public Library System, led a national competition to house the new library on a site in the heart of downtown Nashville. The winning scheme, Robert A. M. Stern, not only solved the problems posed by the site, but also gave the library a strong civic face that was inspired by Nashville's classical heritage.

Working closely with Robert Stern's office, Mrs. Robinson and her committee organized a Public Art Program, which brought in local graphic artists, authors, photographers, painters, sculptors and metalworkers to enrich the building with artwork - both interior and exterior. As a result, visitors to the building are exposed to a rich and diverse view of the history of Nashville through these works of art, culminating in a dramatic reading room on the top floor of the building overlooking the state capitol building.